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ROME: 1873 AND 1891.

In an interesting letter of that date Secretary Miles depicted scenes which we trust to be repeated in November, 1891.

An event of surpassing interest and importance took place in the Chamber of the Roman Senate upon the famous Capitoline Hill on the 27th November, our own national Thanksgiving Day. Some two hundred gentlemen assembled in that Chamber upon a spot teeming with the most interesting associations. At 12.30 o'clock, Professor Mancini called the meeting to order and presided. He gave a brief report of the recent Brussels Peace Conference, stating the provision for the formation of national societies, and that the object of the present meeting was the organization of such a society for Italy. He also submitted a form of constitution which was adopted by the meeting. The following letter from Count Sclopis was then read.

TURIN, Nov. 26, 1873.

DR. JAMES B. MILES,—

Dear Sir—I believe that you must now be very much occupied about your great humanizing design for the improvement and codification of the international law. I shall be very happy to follow your steps, and in accordance with other Italian publicists, to contribute to the enlargement of the security for the preservation of peace among the nations of mankind. I hope shortly to have the pleasure of seeing you again, dear sir, at Turin, and remain respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
FREDERICK SCLOPIS.

The Assembly then proceeded to the choice of officers, which resulted in the election of Count Frederick Sclopis, and the hero and patriot, Garibaldi, as Honorary Presidents; Prof. P. S. Mancini, President; the Hon. Signor Mariana, President of the Senate, and the Hon. Signor Pianciani, Mayor of Rome, Vice-Presidents; Prof. Pierantoni, Signor Odescalchi and Hon. Depute Mouro Macchi, Secretaries.

Thus upon the very Hill of old *Capitoline Jove*, hard by the ruins of the *Temple of Janus*, whose gates were never shut until after the birth of the Prince of Peace, has been organized an association of the most learned and distinguished men of Rome and Italy, for the purpose of promoting the peace and good-fellowship of nations. Verily the world moves. We are living in

“—an age on ages telling. To be living is sublime.”

On the evening of the same day a grand parliamentary banquet was given at the Hotel Rome in honor of Henry Richard, Hon. D. D. Field and myself. It was an occasion of rare interest and enjoyment.

It may be inferred that so far as pertains to myself, my Thanksgiving Day was pretty fully occupied. I had the privilege of addressing a good congregation at the American Church in the morning, attending the reunion on the Capitoline Hill at twelve and a half, participating in a Thanksgiving dinner at the Constanzi Hotel, at which seventy or more Americans were present, in the afternoon, and attending the banquet in the evening.

Nobly done Rome and Italy!

I might write much more of the progress of the great cause here laid I time. We are to organize similar associations in other countries.

J. B. M.

“HE GOT THERE.”

By difference wide
The fates divide
Two kindred bars of steel;
One gleams by the warrior's side,
One grinds 'neath his charger's heel.

In the warrior's hand
The faithless brand
Snaps in the hour of need;
When he sees his native land
Let him thank his well-shod steed.

—John Elliot Bowman.

NATIONAL PROSPERITY AND PEACE.

In one of his brilliant essays Macaulay pointed out the improbability that England would again engage in military contention with its neighbors on the ground of its jeopardized wealth were such a disastrous event to occur. And accordingly that great country has for many years held aloof from such complications as might lead to this result. But what is true of England is true of all other nations which have made progress in illustrating the advantages of an uninterrupted commerce. Even what is styled “national honor” must everywhere yield, in time, to national prosperity. Yet this time will not come until the world's traders unite to enforce its arrival. We know indeed, and have often said in these columns, that the most potent factor in the premises is that spirit of our divine religion the universal prevalence of which shall necessarily be also the prevalence of universal peace. All the same, however, means must be employed for achieving the spread of this spirit throughout all lands. And one of these means is the getting of those men to act in concert who, in addition to their benevolent wish to see the world in perpetual peace, have also the desire to keep in constant movement those wheels of an earth-wide industry which Christianity itself approves. Let, therefore, we urge, the World's Fair be at the same time the world's promise of peace.—*Church Union.*

CURIOUS PENSIONINGS.

An official report on the Pension List discloses a really peculiar state of affairs. It appears that during the last eighteen years 34,917 soldiers have applied for pensions on the ground that they were engaged in the war of 1812, and 44,872 widows have demanded pensions, alleging that their deceased husbands served during that war. During the last year the pensions to the surviving soldiers of the war which ended in 1812 amounted to \$38,847, while surviving widows of deceased soldiers received \$1,263,239. The older war of the revolution terminated in 1782, and yet twenty-three widows of soldiers who served in that war still draw pensions from their grateful country! All these widows must have married when they were fifteen or sixteen, soldiers who were almost old enough to be their great grandfathers. The youngest Revolutionary-war widow claims to be only seventy-two, so it is calculated that she must have married when fifteen a warrior of seventy-two, and that her husband must have been a lad of twenty when the war closed.